

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tissue approximation device comprising two elongate arms, an attachment means to secure the elongate arms to each other, adhesive pads on at least a portion of the elongate arms to anchor the tissue approximation device to the skin, and a locking means to lock the elongate arms in place relative to each other.  
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2. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, further having an open and a closed position, and when in the closed position, the adhesive pads are parallel and non-contiguous to each other.  
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3. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the elongate arms form parallel forceps, the attachment means is a pair of slidable bosses, and the locking means is a ratchet mechanism on the forceps.  
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4. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the distance between the elongate arms is adjustable by means of a ratchet mechanism.
5. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the elongate arms form a pair of forceps, the attachment means is a yoke on the forceps, and the locking means is a ratchet mechanism on the forceps.  
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6. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the distance between the elongate arms is adjustable by means of a ratchet mechanism.  
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7. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a socket mechanism that communicates with a ball on the distal end of each of the elongate arms, and the adhesive pad is optionally rotatable around the ball.  
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8. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a socket mechanism that communicates with a ball on the distal end of each of the elongate arms, and the adhesive pad is optionally rotatable around the ball.

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9. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a ball that communicates with a socket mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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10. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a ball that communicates with a socket mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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11. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having female receiving mechanism that communicates with a male protrusion on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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12. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having female receiving mechanism that communicates with a male protrusion on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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13. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a male protruding mechanism that communicates with a female receiving mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.

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14. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a first adhering surface and a second surface having a male protruding mechanism that communicates with a female receiving mechanism on the distal end of each of the elongate arms.
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15. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the distal end of each of the elongate arms has a passageway therein such that the adhesive pad communicates with said passageway.
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16. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the distal end of each of the elongate arms has a passageway therein such that the adhesive pad communicates with said passageway.
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17. The tissue approximation device of claim 3, where the adhesive pad has a passageway therein such that the distal end of each of the elongate arms is within said passageway.
18. The tissue approximation device of claim 5, where the adhesive pad has a passageway therein such that the distal end of each of the elongate arms is within said passageway.
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19. The tissue approximation device of claim 1, where the attachment means and the locking means are the same.
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20. The tissue approximation device of claim 19, where the adhesive pads are located on at least a portion of each of the elongate arms.
21. A method for closing a wound comprising the steps of providing a tissue approximation device comprising two elongate arms, an attachment means to secure the elongate arms to each other, adhesive pads on at least a portion of the elongate arms to anchor the tissue approximation device to
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the skin, and a locking means to lock the elongate arms in place relative to each other; positioning the adhesive pads to skin on opposed sides of a wound; approximating the wound by actuating the tissue approximation device in a direction to move the adhesive pads towards each other in a common plane that is generally parallel to the skin tissue; engaging the locking means to assure that the edges surfaces of the wound do not move; applying a wound closure means to the wound; and removing the adhesive pads from the skin tissue.

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